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April 26, 2004

MARC E. ELIAS 202/434-1625

BY HAND DELIVERY

Jeff S. Jordan, Esq. **Federal Election Commission** 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 5440

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am writing on behalf of John Kerry for President, Inc and Michael Meehan in regards to the above referenced MUR. Specifically, I am writing to seek an extension of time in which to respond. Though apparently mailed on April 8, 2004, both complaints were sent to an old campaign address. Due to this fact and the time related to processing the large volume of mail received by the campaign on a daily basis, I did not receive the complaints until April 16, 2004. Thus, without an extension, responses would be due by Monday, May 3, 2004. (May 1 is a Saturday when the Commission is closed).

The complaint itself is 67 pages and includes hundreds of pages and a CD-ROM as exhibits. It contains far ranging allegations that implicate multiple provisions of both the FECA and BCRA. It contains factual assertions that involve dozens of individuals, events and groups.

In light of the complexity of the complaint and its timing during a hotly contested presidential campaign, I am seeking an additional 60 days in which to respond. Under my calculation a response would be due July 2, 2004. While I recognize that this is a longer period than is normally granted, it is necessitated by the unique factors set forth above.

Please advise me as soon as possible regarding the requested extension.

Marc E. Elias

Sincerely yours

MEE: